

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all other listings.

1. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a flavivirus in a subject or animal host comprising:
 - a) contacting a sample from the subject or animal with a composition comprising a flavivirus envelope protein domain III polypeptide under conditions that permit formation of specific immunocomplex between an antibody in the sample and the envelope protein domain III polypeptide, wherein the envelope protein domain III polypeptide is a West Nile virus envelope protein domain III polypeptide; and
 - b) detecting whether a specific immunocomplex is formed.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the envelope protein domain III polypeptide is not a fusion protein.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the envelope protein domain III polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that has at least an 80% identity with SEQ ID NO:11.
- 7.-8. (Canceled)
9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the envelope protein domain III polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that has at least an 95% identity with SEQ ID NO:11.
10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising at least a second envelope protein domain III polypeptide.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunocomplex is detected using anti-antibody secondary reagents.

14.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the envelope protein domain III polypeptide is obtained from a bacteria, a mammalian or an insect cell comprising an expression vector encoding the envelope protein domain III polypeptide.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is infected with West Nile virus or a tick borne encephalitis serocomplex virus.

21. (Currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated West Nile virus ~~serocomplex virus~~ envelope protein domain III ~~polypeptide~~ peptide comprising at most 103 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:11, wherein the peptide specifically binds a West Nile virus specific antibody.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24.-25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The composition of claim 21, wherein the envelope protein domain III polypeptide is operatively linked to a substrate.

29. (Original) The composition of claim 28, wherein the substrate is a microtiter plate, a bead or a microarray.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A kit for screening for flavivirus antibodies, in a suitable container means, comprising at least one envelope protein domain III polypeptide, wherein the at least one envelope protein domain III polypeptide is a West Nile virus envelope protein domain III polypeptide peptide comprising at most 103 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:11, wherein the peptide specifically binds a West Nile virus specific antibody.

33. - 40. (Canceled)

41. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening for West Nile virus antibodies in a subject comprising:

- a) an assay plate comprising a multiplicity of microtiter wells comprising a composition comprising an envelope protein domain III polypeptide capable of binding a flavivirus antibody in the sample that can specifically bind to the envelope protein domain III polypeptide; and
- b) a container means comprising a labeled secondary antibody having specific binding affinity for a flavivirus antibody in the sample that can specifically bind to the envelope protein domain III polypeptide.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for flavivirus in a subject comprising:
- a) contacting a sample from the subject with a composition from the kit of claim 32;
and,
 - b) detecting whether an immunocomplex is formed between an antibody and the envelope protein domain III polypeptide.

44. (Withdrawn, new) The composition of claim 28, further comprising an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 100 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 100 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 100 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 100 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 99 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 103 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 103 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 103 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 103 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 100 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:16, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:18, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:19, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 97 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:20, and/or an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 111 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.

45. (Withdrawn, new) The kit of claim 32, further comprising an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 100 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 100 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, an

envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 100 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 100 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 99 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 103 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 103 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 103 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 103 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 100 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:16, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:18, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 96 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:19, an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 97 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:20, and/or an envelope domain III peptide comprising at most 111 contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.